



**WIG**

The Whitehall & Industry Group  
connecting the sectors



## 'Environment & Climate Change' Series Driving Climate Action Ahead of COP 26 with Nigel Topping, High-Level Climate Action Champion, COP26

### Expert Insight

We were joined by Nigel Topping, the UK's High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP26 to discuss how industry, government and civil society can collaborate on climate change ahead of COP26. Nigel touched on many points, including:

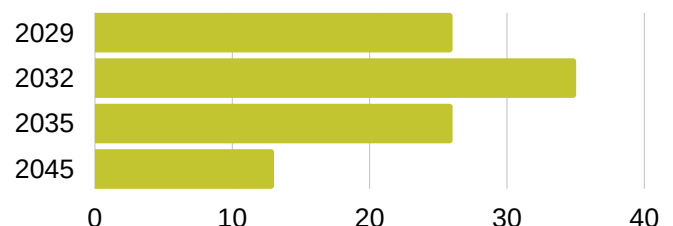


- COP26 will be the first test of the Paris Agreement, which created a way for countries to review progress and 'upgrade' targets through 'Nationally Determined Contributions' (NDCs). 5 COPs later, we're seeing these enhanced ambitions.
- The success of COP26 will heavily depend on what happens between now and November 2021, with the commitments made by local government, industry, and civil society playing a significant role.
- The first objective of the COP26 Climate Champions is to increase the number of organisations - from states to sports clubs - committed to their own pathway to net-zero. Serious actors around the world committing to net-zero creates an enabling condition for bolder policy on net-zero.
- The second is to accelerate the path to zero at a granular level, working sector-by-sector. Building momentum around decarbonisation roadmaps effectively 'derisks' them.
- What can businesses do? Publicly commit to your own net-zero target as early as possible; be clear about short term plans to deliver on this in the next 5 years; switch to renewable energy and electric vehicles; redesign and decarbonise your products and services; spread your influence by engaging with your supply chain; and use your voice to support a green, resilient recovery from the COVID crisis.

### Cross-Sector Opinion

Over 100 attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in, we asked them:

When do you think the last  
new car with a combustion  
engine will be sold?



### Our members' questions

Our members asked some challenging questions. Some of the issues raised included:

- How to ensure transparency when measuring the impact of business and civil activities on climate change
- Whether industry can afford to make the necessary investment into climate change mitigation and adaptation, or whether it could afford not to
- What the consequences might be for countries failing to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

WIG members can listen to Nigel's presentation [here](#)  
To see our full programme of webinars, visit [www.wig.co.uk](http://www.wig.co.uk)